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PROPOSALS for PRINTING

A Compleat

HISTORY of ENGLAND:

OR, THE

Lives of all the Kings

TO

His Preſent MAJESTY.

CONTAINING,

A Faithful Relation of all Affairs of State, both Eccleſiaſtical and Civil, with Obſervations, ancient Inſcriptions, Coins and Medals, for Illuſtration thereof; and the Effiges of the Kings. Collected from the moſt Authentick Authors and Original Papers, by ſeveral Hands.

IF Hiſtory be beſt ſupplied both with Delight and Inſtruction, from a Variety of Occurrences; there are few Nations better able to furniſh it than the Kingdom of *England*. We have had ſo many Changes, carried on by ſuch different Methods, and to ſo many ſeveral Ends, that if they were ſet in a true Light, we ſhould have little occaſion to look abroad for Examples, almoſt in any kind. But the misfortune is, What would be the great Ornament of our Hiſtory, if once finiſh'd, has been the main Diſcouragement from attempting it. We have not wanted Perſons of the greateſt Abilities, who, out of a Concern for the Publick, have ſet about it with the utmoſt Reſolution; but have been either ſurpriz'd by Death, or diverted by Buſineſs, or frighted by the growing Difficulties from undertaking the whole, and confin'd themſelves to ſome particular part. The great Light of our Nation, Mr. *CAMDEN*, deſign'd it; and had as much reaſon to hope for Succeſs as any one: But tho' he had time enough before him, and greater Opportunities than the generality of Men are Maſters of, he fairly confeſſes, That after a little Progreſs, he found the Task too weighty, and ſo ſet about the Hiſtory of Queen *Elizabeth*. That ſingle Reign coſt him ſixteen Years Labour, tho' himſelf had been an Eye-witneſs of the greateſt part of it. 'Tis true, a General Hiſtory would not require ſuch a large account of every Reign; But the whole Body of our Old *Hiſterians* muſt be examin'd, the *Records of the Kingdom* conſulted, our Conſtitution throughly underſtood: And after all, this Maſs of Collections is to be digeſted into a Method and Style ſuitable to the Subject. And certainly here is full Employment for the Age of any one Man, let him begin as early as he pleaſes and ſet out with all the Advantages imaginable. *Such is the Wiſdom of thoſe Undertakers, who would perſwade the World they are in earneſt, when they promiſe to run through all the Changes*, from the Flood *to this very Day, in the Compaſs of one poor Year.*

But the many Diſappointments which have already happen'd, and the multitude of Accidents (as, unavoidable Avocations, Sickneſs, Death, and too often want of Reſolution, *&c.*) which may interrupt ſuch a great Undertaking, gives us ſo little Proſpect of hoping for a *Compleat Hiſtory* by any ſuch way, that it may be a Piece of good Service to the Publick to fix upon another Method.

'Tis in general, to ſupply the Inconveniences which attend one Man's Undertaking, by uniting the Labours of ſeveral; who, 'as they handl'd ſome ſingle part only, had better Opportunities of informing themſelves thorowly, and leſs Temptation to run it over ſuperficially. This (tho' it may come ſhort of the Perfection might be wiſh'd for) is certainly practicable, and ſeems the moſt accurate that can be reaſonably expected. Such as it is, we freely ſubmit it to the Judgment of the Learned, hoping that the *Authors* which have ſingly had ſo much Eſteem, may be at leaſt of equal Value, and be as kindly receiv'd, when drawn into one Body.

The

The Writers which are to compose this History, are

1. *Milton*'s History of *England*, from the first traditional beginning, down to the Conquest.
2. From the Conquest to the End of *Edward* III. by Mr. *Daniel*.
3. The Reigns of *Richard* II. *Henry* IV, V, VI. shall be writ anew in Mr. *Daniel*'s method. Mr. *Trussel* had furnish'd us with an Account of those Reigns; but his Performance having not met with such universal Approbation as Mr. *Milton* and Mr. *Daniel*, we choose rather to be at the Trouble and Expence of making that part answerable to the rest, than that either the *Reader* or the *Work* should suffer upon that account.
4. The Reign of *Edward* IV. is excellently writ by Mr. *Habbington* and others.
5. The Lives of *Edward* V. and *Richard* III. written by Sir *Thomas Moor*, have met with a general Esteem answerable to the Character of the Author.
6. The Reign of *Henry* VII. by Sir *Francis Bacon*.
7. The Reign of *Henry* VIII. by the Lord *Herbert*.
8. The Reign of *Edward* VI. by Sir *John Hayward*.
9. The Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* by Mr. *Camden*.

Which are Works too well known in the World, and approv'd of by the Learned, to need any farther Recommendation. The last of these (which has been a little unkindly handled by former Translators) shall be intirely translated anew, from a Copy considerably improv'd, with Additions and Corrections under Mr. *Camden*'s own Hand.

10. The Reign of Queen *Mary*, and the rest, down to our own Time, are written by several Hands; particularly, part of the Reign of King *James*, by Mr. *Camden*.

The several Authors that are Reprinted, are accurately collated with the *ancient Historians* of the respective Times, and improv'd from them with useful *Additions*, *Observations*, and *Corrections*, at the bottom of the Page.

To each King's Reign shall be prefix'd his Effigies; and through the whole Work shall be dispers'd such *Coins*, *Medals*, *Inscriptions*, &c. as may illustrate particular Matters of Fact.

Before the Work, shall be a large Map of all the *Battles*, *Sieges*, &c. mention'd in the History; and at the End, besides large Index's, will be added a *Glossary*, explaining all the difficult *Words* occurring in the Work.

This Work, which hath been a long time preparing for the Publick by several Learned and Ingenious Persons, is now in the Press, and proposed to be Printed upon the following Conditions, *viz.*

PROPOSALS.

I. THAT this Book, which will contain Four Hundred and Fifty Sheets (besides a Map shewing the Battles, Sieges, *&c.* the Effigies of the Kings, several Meddals and Coins ingraven in Copper) shall be Printed in two Volumes, in Folio; on a very good Paper and fair Character.

II. That the First Volume, which brings the History to the End of the Reign of Queen *Mary*, shall be ready to be deliver'd to the Subscribers, by *Trinity*-Term next; and the Second Volume, by *Michaelmas*-Term next following.

III. That the Price to Subscribers shall be but Forty Shillings in Sheets; whereof Fifteen Shillings to be paid in Hand, Fifteen at the Delivery of the First Volume, and Ten Shillings at the Delivery of the Second Volume.

IV. And for the Encouragement of Subscribers, any Person that shall subscribe for Six Books, shall have a Seventh *Gratis*; which will reduce the Price to Thirty Four Shillings and Four Pence.

V. The Price to any other than a Subscriber, shall not be less than Forty Five Shillings in Sheets.

A Compleat Set of the Lives of the Kings, *down to this Time, are not to be bought under* 4 l 10 s, *tho' they want the great* Additions, Corrections *and* Improvements *which will be made to this.*

A Catalogue of the Subscribers Names shall be affixed to the Work.

Those Gentlemen that please to encourage this Work, by their Subscription, are desired to send in their first Payments with what speed they can to the UNDERTAKERS, who are

R. Chiswell, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in S. *Paul*'s Church-yard.
B. Aylmer, at the *Three Pigeons* in *Cornhill*.
R. Bently, at the Post-house in *Covent-garden*.
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